F-8407

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Koji OGATA

Serial No.

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/04138

Filed March 31, 2003)

Filed

(Concurrently herewith)

For

BONDING STRUCTURE FOR REFRACTORY

SLEEVE DEFINING INNER HOLE OF

CONTINUOUS CASTING NOZZLE

Group Art Unit

(Not yet known)

Examiner

(Not yet known)

September 29, 2004 New York, New York

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: